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There are over 15 miles of hiking trails at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The self-guiding Petrified Forest Loop offers the best views of petrified redwood stumps. The other trails provide excellent opportunities to view scenery and explore the modern ecosystem.

Hornbek Wildlife Loop - 3.8 miles
Following meadows, the trail to the Hornbek Homestead crosses land once covered by ancient Lake Florissant. The return route overlooks the ancient lake bed and the mountain ranges beyond and signs of wildlife are common. MODERATE

This trail follows an old roadbed and leaves the meadows to travel through the ponderosa pine forest. The trail gets its name from a historic ranch. Look for signs of former agricultural activity.

MODERATE

Self-Guided Trails and Visitor Center Area

Ponderosa Loop - ½ mile
This wheelchair accessible trail starts behind the exhibit area. This short trail leaves the exhibit area and enters the modern forest past ponderosa pines, aspen, douglas fir, and spruce trees. EASY

Petrified Forest Loop – 1 mile
This trail leads through the bed of ancient Lake Florissant. It passes numerous giant petrified redwood tree stumps, including the colorful “Big Stump.” This trail starts behind the outdoor exhibit area. EASY

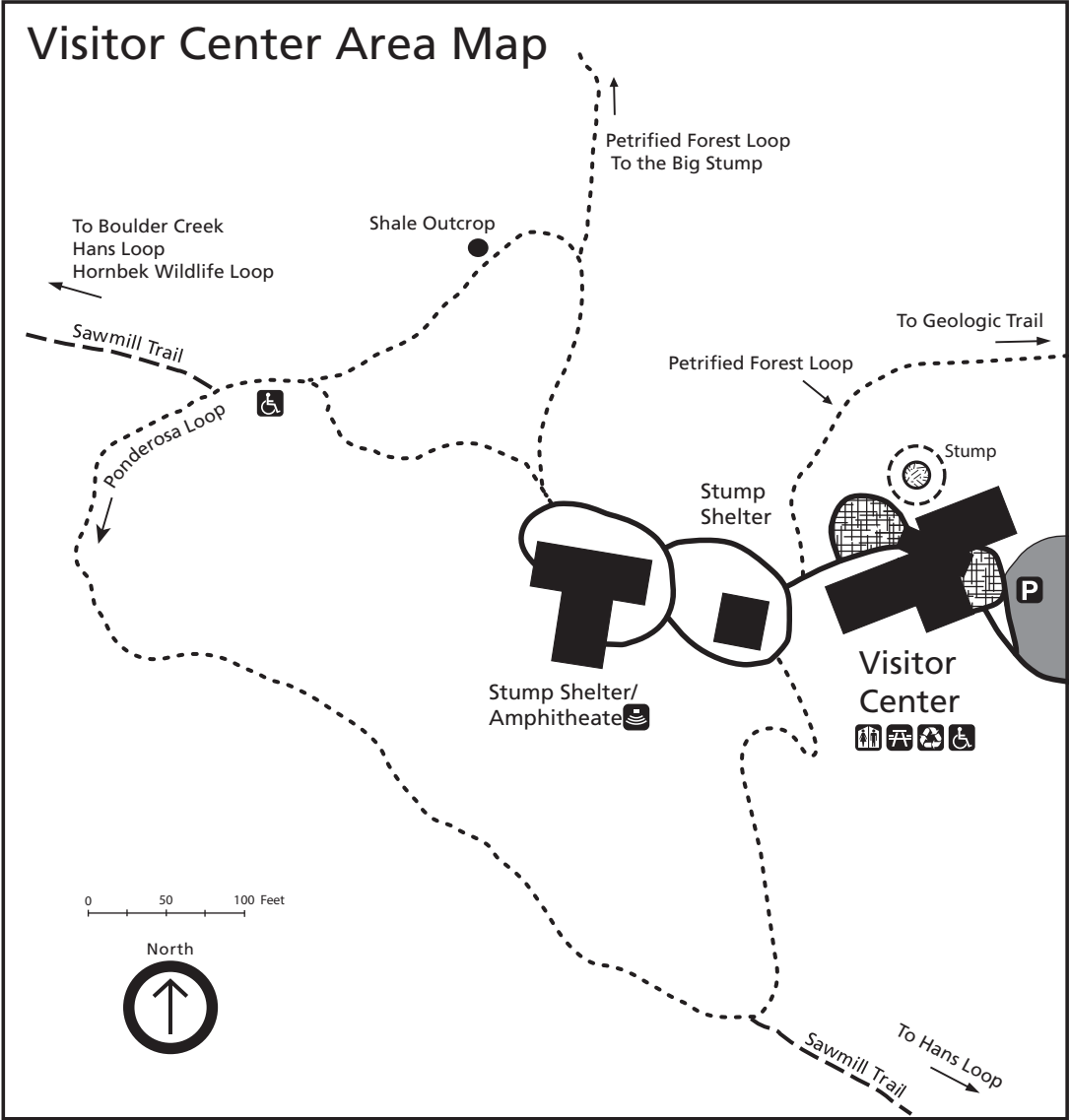
Geologic Trail - 1 mile
This trail highlights over a billion years of geologic history in the Florissant valley. It passes over the ancient lake bed, crosses Teller County Rd 1, then ascends past the remnants of a massive pyroclastic flow and ends at a scenic overview of the Florissant valley. MODERATE

Visitor Center Area Features

Outdoor Exhibit Area
Behind the visitor center are two shelters covering petrified redwood trees, exhibits, and the amphitheater.

Visitor Center and Bookstore
The visitor center contains exhibits, fossil displays, and the Rocky Mountain Nature Association Bookstore.

Shale Outcrop
Located just north of the amphitheater is an outcropping of shale that is a remnant of ancient Lake Florissant.



Self-Guided Trails

Hiking Trails

Paved Walkway

Paved Patio

Accessible Trail

Bathrooms

Parking Lot

Picnic area

Amphitheater

Shale Outcrop

Protect The Park
Protect Yourself

For More Information:
Florissant Fossil Beds
National Monument
PO Box 185
Florissant, CO 80816
www.nps.gov/flfo
(719) 748-3253

- Protect Your Park**
- Pets are limited to paved parking lots and roads and the picnic and pet areas near the visitor center. They must be on a leash.
 - Collection of any natural or cultural objects such as fossils, petrified wood, rocks, flowers, etc. is prohibited.
 - ATV’s, snowmobiles, and bikes are prohibited.
 - Do not feed, approach, or disturb wildlife.
 - Camping and campfires are prohibited.
 - Pay park entrance fees and observe park hours.

- Protect Yourself**
- Florissant is located at 8,400 feet of elevation.
 - Drink plenty of water and pace yourself to avoid altitude sickness.
 - Lightning is common during summer afternoons. Seek shelter, stay low, avoid standing next to trees or on ridges.
 - The sun is intense. Use sun block and hats.
 - Wildlife may carry diseases and may bite or scratch. Do not feed or approach wildlife.